

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W

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R 171040Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 0726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, NP

SUBJ: NEW MOUNTAINEERING REGULATIONS PUBLISHED

1. NAW REGULATIONS GOVERNING MOUNTAINEERING IN NEPAL WERE PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE JANUARY 26. ALTHOUGH BASIC REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN PERMIT TO CLIMB PEAKS OVER 6,600 MTERS REMAIN THE SAME, FEES HAVE BEEN RAISED IN MOST CASES 33 PER CENT.

2. OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, IS CHANGE BY WHICH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO ENDORSE EXPEDITIONS. CURRENR REGULATIONS READ: QUOTE . . . APPLICATIONS SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY RECOMMENDATION OF A REPUTED AND RECOGNIZED MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTION IN THE APPROPRIATE COUNTRY, OR MK THE EMBASSY OF THAT COUNTRY IN NEPAL.A END 17953. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB HAS BEEN ASKED BY MFA TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT AAC WHICH WOULD "ALLOW MINISTRY TO RECOGNIZE IT AS THE LEADING U.S. MOUNTAIN RANG GROUP". MOHAN PANDE, UNDER SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CONSULAR AND MOUNTAINEERING DIVISIONS, CONFIRMED THAT IN FUTURE AAC RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE SOUGHT IN ORDER TO AVOID "DIFFICULT SITUATIONS". WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT ONCE FORD ISSUE IS SETTLED US GOVERNMENT GET OUT OF BUSINESS OF ENDORSING EXPEDPHIONS AND REFER FUTURE REQUESTS FOR ENDORSEMENT TO AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB. CARGO

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